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September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	62%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	67%
Lake Superior	79%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	39%
Lake Ontario	110%

LEVEL news

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 12, Number 10 October 8, 2004

September Water Supplies to Lakes Michigan-Huron Below Average

Water supplies to Lakes Michigan Huron were below average during the month of September. As a result, the level of Lakes Michigan-Huron fell more than average last month. Conversely, above average supply conditions caused Lake Superior's water level to rise by 1 cm instead of falling as it usually does during September.

Above average local basin supply to Lake Erie offset the below average inflow it received from the upper Great Lakes. As a result, the total supply to Lake Erie was close to average for the month and the level of the lake declined by about its average amount for September. The local basin supply to Lake Ontario was particular high during September due to the heavy rainfall brought by the remnants of Hurricane Frances on September 8th and 9th. The total supplies to the Lake Ontario were also above average in September causing its level to decline by less than its average amount for the month.

Great Lakes Water Level Information

	September Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of October Level	
Lake	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	10 cm below	19 cm above	10 cm below	15 cm above
Michigan-Huron	26 cm below	34 cm above	28 cm below	32 cm above
St. Clair	2 cm below	25 cm above	3 cm below	28 cm above
Erie	10 cm above	21 cm above	7 cm above	19 cm above
Ontario	22 cm above	20 cm above	18 cm above	17 cm above

FOCUS

Note: These figures are preliminary.

September Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior	100%
Lake Erie	100%
Lake Huron	90%
Lake Ontario	113%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

The International Joint Commission's FOCUS newsletter is now available in hard copy and on-line at: http://www.ijc.org/rel/focus/v29i3/index.html.

This issue includes articles about:

- The 12th Biennial Report on Great Lakes Water Quality;
- Scheduled review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;
- IJC Biennial Award for Great Lakes Science;
- Water apportionment of the St. Mary and Milk rivers;
- Regulation of water levels in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence river system;
- "Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes" IJC review of its year 2000 report recommendations; and,
- The 2005 Great Lakes Conference and Biennial Meeting - Kingston, ON, June 9-11, 2005.

Focus also includes a number of regular features including:

- People (changes to the IJC advisory boards);
- What's Happening (calendar of events and upcoming public meetings); and,
- Hot off the Press (new publications from the IJC).

Subscription is free. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the IJC at:
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You may choose to receive Focus electronically or mailed in hard copy. Please provide your complete e-mail or mailing address.

The IJC can be found on the Internet at www.ijc.org

Autumn 2004

The size of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River system is awesome. The basin upstream of the power dam on the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall, Ontario/Massena, New York covers about 774 000 km^2. The five Great Lakes contain about 23 000 km^3 of water covering a total area of about 244 000 km^2-- just under one-third of the basin's total area.

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URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/ln200410_e.html